

VEHICLE TIRE WITH A TREAD RUBBER PROFILE**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Patent Application No. 103 12 488.8, filed on March 20, 2003, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

[0002] The invention relates to a vehicle tire, in particular a winter tire, with a tread rubber profile which includes grooves running in the circumferential direction and diagonal grooves. The tire also includes two shoulder block rows lying axially outside and a pair of center block rows arranged between the shoulder block rows. The blocks of the shoulder block rows and the center block rows are respectively provided with a plurality of fine indents running parallel to one another. The borders of a road contact area of the vehicle tire pass through the shoulder block rows and a profile center is delimited by axial outer edges of the center block rows.

2. Discussion of Background Information

[0003] Vehicle pneumatic tires with such tread rubber profiles are known in different embodiment variants, e.g., through EP 0 729 854 B1. In the design of tread rubber profiles for winter tires it is important to take into account the very different demands on such a tire, since winter tires need to be satisfactory on dry roads as well as on wet roads and under wintry driving conditions. It is therefore most important to coordinate the various profile properties as well as possible so that the tire, e.g., responds in wet grip and features good steering and traction behavior and braking behavior under wintry driving conditions, e.g., on snow and ice.

[0004] The number of effective edges is to be increased though fine indents in order to improve the traction behavior, in particular on wintry roads.

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